**Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced. Max. 350 words**

“Number 112, Livia Monika, 30 push-ups!” they shouted three inches away from my face. Joining a military camp was entirely foreign to me, where I stood under the scorching sun for hours, eating full meals in under 15 seconds, and doing many rounds of push-ups. Raised by parents who prepared me to be the caretaker of the family, people say I’m very independent, but this military camp was on a whole new level. Why did I willingly join the camp? It’s simple. I wanted to have the mental durability and discipline.

The camp was like hell. We were trained by and exactly like the Indonesian armed forces. We slept in a velbed and woke up by an emergency alarm at 2 AM, we skipped showers and crawled in mud. Breakfast entailed pouring cold water on rice to help us swallow the food. The camp deprived us of what I take for granted at home: convenience, tolerance, and self-care. Countless times I regretted my decisions to join. Each time I had to stop thinking why and push through it, reminding myself of my motives.

The whole opportunity shaped me into who I am today, a tough girl ready to face anything in this world. It gave me a new perspective on being strong, which means being able to survive in any condition, even when that environment is 180° from the usual. I learned that strong character is not built in a soft environment, but rather through hardships and effort.

Joining this camp has shaped me to be tough when facing challenges and does not crack under pressure. It has provided me with insight on how to adapt in any kind of situation, wherever life takes me. I know in the future, whatever I face in life, no matter how hard the situation is, I will adapt. I will survive.